

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1260

INFO USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, RO

SUBJECT U.S.-GOR EXCHANGES AGREEMENT-HOUSING

REF: BUCHAREST 5813

1. FOLLOWING INCONCLUSIVE MEETING BY CAO WITH ROSIANU OF MFA ON DECEMBER 20, AMBASSADOR, DCM, AND CAO CALLED ON DEFORMIN CORNEL PACOSTE (IN GLIGA'S ABSENCE) DECEMBER 23 TO DISCUSS PROBLEM OF HOUSING FOR AMERICAN EXCHANGE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS IN ROMANIA AND PARTICULARLY SITUATION CREATED BY ONT EVICTION NOTICES EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 31.

2. AMBASSADOR RELIED ON GUIDANCE PROVIDED STATE 276713 IN EXPRESSING SURPRISE AND SERIOUS U.S. CONCERN OVER IMPACT OF STATE DECREE 225 ON PROGRAM OF EXCHANGES RECENTLY SIGNED WITH GOR. PACOSTE AGREED THAT DECREE'S IMPLEMENTATION WOULD PRESENT SOME CONCRETE PROBLEMS, BUT ALSO IN TURN EXPRESSED "SURPRISE" THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD COMMENT ON A LAW WHICH IS, HE SAID, "ESSENTIALLY AN INTERNAL MATTER" HAVING NO CONNECTION TO THE SATISFACTORY CULTURAL RELATIONS EXISTING BETWEEN THE GOR AND U.S. IN REPLYING, AMBASSADOR REFERRED TO ARTICLE V OF DECEMBER 13 AGREEMENT AND ASSURED PACOSTE THAT U.S. RECOGNIZED THAT PROGRAM OF EXCHANGES TOOK PLACE UNDER LAWS OF EACH COUNTRY BUT THAT BOTH PARTIES HAD, IN THE SAME PARAGRAPH, AGREED TO EXERT "BEST EFFORTS TO PROMOTE FAVORABLE CONDITIONS" FOR EXCHANGES. U.S. WAS CONCERNED WITH THE IMMEDIATE

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AND LONGER TERM IMPACT OF NEW LAW ON AMERICAN PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS AND WAS EAGER TO ASSURE PROVISIONS FOR ADEQUATE AND SUITABLE

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR GRANTEES. PACOSTE REPLIED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE SPECIFIC PROBLEMS BUT REQUESTED AMBASSADOR TO INFORM DEPARTMENT THAT LAW IS STRICTLY ROMANIAN INTERNAL MATTER WHICH SHOULD NOT AFFECT BILATERAL CULTURAL RELATIONS. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT GOR WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ASSURE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR FOREIGN EXCHANGE PARTICIPANTS ARE AVAILABLE, AND WAS IN FACT ALREADY CAREFULLY EXPLORING VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES. AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED AS ONE SOLUTION THAT GOR CONSIDER AMENDING DECREE TO ALLOW FOREIGN GRANTEES CURRENTLY OCCUPYING PRIVATE QUARTERS TO REMAIN THERE UNTIL COMPLETION OF THEIR PROGRAMS.

3. ON SPECIFIC PROBLEMS PRESENTED BY EVICTION NOTICES, PACOSTE PROMISED IMMEDIATE ACTION PRIOR TO DECEMBER 31 TO ALLOW GRANTEES TO REMAIN IN PRESENT QUARTERS PENDING FINAL RESOLUTION OR ULTIMATE ARRANGEMENT TO BE DECIDED BETWEEN EMBASSY AND MINISTRY. HE SAID WE COULD ASSURE OUR GRANTEES THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE EVICTED ON SHORT NOTICE AND COULD LOOK FORWARD TO A QUIET NEW YEAR'S EVE IN THAT SENSE. LATE AFTERNOON DECEMBER 23 THE LANDLORDS OF THOSE GRANTEES WHO HAD RECEIVED EVICTION NOTICES WERE CALLED BY ONT AND TOLD THEIR AMERICAN TENANTS COULD STAY UNTIL THE DECREE DEADLINE OF MARCH 6, 1975. (MFA CALLED EMBASSY DECEMBER 24 TO INFORM US OF THIS ACTION.) WE WILL TACKLE LONGER-TERM PROBLEM FOR REMAINDER OF THIS ACADEMIC YEAR WITH GLIGA.

4. IN DECEMBER 20 SESSION WITH ROSIANU, EMBASSY PASSED MFA OUR PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO IMPLEMENTING CONDITIONS IN LIGHT OF HOUSING SITUATION (STATE 278152 AND REFTEL). WE EXPECT FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON THIS MATTER ALSO FOLLOWING GLIGA'S RETURN NEXT WEEK.

5. FURTHER POSITIVE NOTE IS THAT CONVERSATION WITH ROSIANU RESULTED IN NOTE FROM MFA DECEMBER 23 TO ALL DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS CLARIFYING STATUS OF DEPENDENTS OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS IN RELATION TO \$10 PER DAY EXCHANGE REQUIREMENT. ACCORDING TO MFA NOTE, SPOUSES OF STUDENTS ARE EXEMPT AS WELL AS SPOUSES, CHILDREN AND PARENTS OF PROFESSORS UNDER EXCHANGE PROGRAMS. (FYI-LAW PROVIDES EXEMPTION FOR CHILDREN UNDER 14 YEARS. END FYI) WE WILL THEREFORE DROP OUR PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE PARAGRAPH ON THIS

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ITEM IN THE IMPLEMENTING CONDITIONS.
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